

HB 867 -- PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Justus

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Return to Committee of Origin" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill authorizes certain cities to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to 0.5% for the purpose of improving public safety, including expenditures on equipment, city public employee salaries and benefits, and facilities for police, fire, and emergency medical providers.

The sales tax will expire in 15 years, and then every 10 years thereafter, unless approved again by the voters. If the sales tax fails on the first ballot, the cities cannot put the issue on the ballot again for at least 12 months. If the sales tax fails on a second ballot, then the authorization for the sales tax is repealed.

This bill is similar to a sales tax authorized under Section 94.902, RSMo.

Currently, this only applies to the City of Branson.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the revenue authorized by this bill is needed to keep infrastructure safe given the amount of tourists that travel to and around Branson, and a new fire station is needed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Justus; Karen Best, City of Branson; and Jamie Rouch, City of Branson.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.